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6-28-02  
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(suppl.)  
PATENT

Attorney Docket No. HILL 100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: )

Richard A. Hillstead, et al. )

Serial No.: 09/942,236 )

Filed: August 29, 2001 )

Group Art No.: 3739 )

Examiner: Not yet Assigned )

For: MEDICAL INSTRUMENT )

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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NAME Jeannie Rapstad

SIGNATURE

*Jeannie Rapstad*

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. A copy of each document is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

The following patents disclose medical instruments having which are actuated, at least in part, by a hydraulic, pneumatic or gas powered assembly:

U.S. Patent No. 3,643,851 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 4,349,028 to Green;  
U.S. Patent No. 4,485,817 to Swiggett;  
U.S. Patent No. 4,488,523 to Shichman;  
U.S. Patent No. 4,951,861 to Schulze et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,312,023 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,326,013 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,456,401 to Green et al.;

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U.S. Patent No. 5,478,003 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,482,197 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,575,799 to Bolanos et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,636,780 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,645,209 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,647,526 to Green et al.; and  
U.S. Published Application No. US 2001/0030219.

Of the submitted patents, there are also a number which disclose a medical instrument in which at least one portion of the shaft or jaws of the instrument are capable of articulation relative to the remainder of the instrument:

U.S. Patent No. 4,207,873 to Kruij;  
U.S. Patent No. 4,566,620 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 4,688,555 to Wardle;  
U.S. Patent No. 4,728,020 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 4,869,414 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 4,880,015 to Nierman;  
U.S. Patent No. 4,919,112 to Siegmund;  
U.S. Patent No. 4,951,861 to Schulze et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,042,707 to Taheri;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,258,008 to Wilk;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,271,543 Grant et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,312,023 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,312,024 to Grant et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,326,013 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,348,259 to Blanco et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,356,064 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,364,002 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,366,479 to McGarry et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,405,344 to Williamson et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,409,498 to Braddock et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,423,471 to Mastri et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,439,156 to Grant et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,456,401 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,465,894 to Clark et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,478,003 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,482,197 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,485,952 to Fontayne;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,497,933 to DeFonzo et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,549,637 to Crainich;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,560,532 to DeFonzo et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,562,682 to Oberlin et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,573,543 to Akopov et al.;

U.S. Patent No. 5,575,799 to Bolanos et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,603,443 to Clark et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,605,273 to Hamblin et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,607,094 to Clark et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,626,587 to Bishop et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,632,432 to Schulze et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,634,584 to Okorocha et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,636,780 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,645,209 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,647,526 to Green et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,662,662 to Bishop et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,680,982 to Schulze et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,690,269 to Bolanos et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,702,408 to Wales;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,704,534 to Huitema et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,713,505 to Huitema;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,725,536 to Oberlin et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,732,871 to Clark et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,743,456 to Jones et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,794,834 to Hamblin et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,797,537 to Oberlin et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,797,538 to Heaton et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,817,109 to McGarry et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,820,009 to Melling et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,823,066 to Huitema;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,855,311 to Hamblin et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,865,361 to Milliman et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,901,895 to Heaton et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 6,241,139 to Milliman et al.;  
U.S. Patent No. 6,330,965 to Milliman et al.;

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus or method disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention.

The citation of these documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any

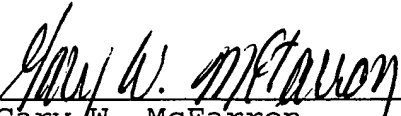
disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of the documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

It is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is required. If it is determined that a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039. (A duplicate of this document is enclosed.)

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 24, 2002

By:   
Gary W. McFarron  
Registration No. 27,357  
Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo,  
Cummings & Mehler, Ltd.  
200 West Adams St., Suite 2850  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Phone: (312) 236-8500

Attorneys for Applicants



PATENT

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NAME Jeannie Rapstad

SIGNATURE

*Jeannie Rapstad*

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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/942,236	
	Filing Date	August 29, 2001	
	First Named Inventor	Richard A. Hillstead, et al.	
	Group Art Unit	3739	
	Examiner Name	Not yet Assigned	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	*	Attorney Docket Number	HILL 100

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Firm or Individual name	Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo, Cummings & Mehler, Ltd. Gary W. McFarron, Esq. (Reg. No. 27, 357)
Signature	<i>Gary W. McFarron</i>
Date	June 24, 2002

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